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NEWS RELEASE

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BLM WINS NEW MEXICO HERITAGE PRESERVATION AWARD

Santa Fe- The State of New Mexico's Heritage Preservation Division, Office of Cultural Affairs, chose the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Archeology Program for its 2005 Heritage Publication Preservation award. The Scottish Rite Temple in Santa Fe will host the ceremony for award winners on Friday, May 13 at 2:00 PM.

The Bureau of Land Management's *Cultural Resources Publication Series* was nominated for "significant, ongoing, contributions to the professional and popular literature of the archeology and history of New Mexico." Since 1987, fifteen separate volumes have been issued in this series. These publications have covered such diverse topics as:

- surveys and excavations of Navajo refugee sites
- Chacoan road systems
- archeological and historical inventories near Zuni Sal Lake
- graduate theses on Ft. Cummings
- university field schools near Ft. Stanton, Ft. Cummings, and Ft. Fillmore
- cultural resource overviews of southeast New Mexico
- the latest contract archeological research in the Upper San Juan Basin
- contributions of public participation in fieldwork on BLM lands
- historical essays on El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro

These publications are provided free of charge to over 300 public schools, libraries, universities, scholars, research centers, as well as state, and federal agencies. In addition, proceeds from sales of the publications support additional outreach and education efforts of the Bureau. The *Cultural Resources Publication Series* has been favorably reviewed in professional prehistoric and historic archeological journals.

The New Mexico Bureau of Land Management began building its cultural resources management program in the early 1970s in response to passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. Since 1972, more and more archeologists have been hired until today BLM employs 23 archeologists, including staff in Oklahoma. The present staff has developed a great deal of regional expertise.

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The BLM, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, manages more land – 261 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. Most of this land is in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau also administers 700 million acres of subsurface mineral estate throughout the nation.